

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



April 16, 2004

REFUGEE COORDINATOR LETTER NO. 04-11

TO: COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL SERVICES (RESS) AND TARGETED ASSISTANCE (TA) WAIVERS

The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) granted a waiver for RESS monies to be used to fund services to refugees who have been in the United States for longer than 60 months. This waiver is due to expire on September 30, 2004. In order to continue to provide services to refugees who have been in the country for longer than 60 months, California intends to ask ORR to extend this waiver for another year. To make the strongest case possible for the waiver to remain in place, we are asking you to provide the following information regarding refugees and asylees:

1. A description of economic conditions in your county.
2. Number of refugees/asylees over 60 months.
3. Number of refugees/asylees that were assisted under the current waiver.
4. An explanation of how services would benefit the refugees/asylees over 60 months.
5. Reasons why other funds cannot be used to address their needs, specifically why California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) funds cannot be used.
6. Success stories of refugees/asylees who have been assisted under the current waiver.

Please fax or e-mail the RESS waiver information by May 7, 2004 to Ms. Bonnie Brady, Fax: (916) 654-7187 or E-mail: Bonnie.Brady@dss.ca.gov.

The Refugee Programs Bureau (RPB) will also pursue a waiver of TA regulations that limit services to those refugees who have been in the United States less than 60 months on behalf of each individual county that makes a request. If your county will be receiving a TA allocation for fiscal year 2004/05 and determines that there is a need for a waiver, please provide RPB with a justification outlining the compelling reason(s) why the waiver should be granted. Please also address why your RESS funding will not be adequate to serve the over 60-month population.

Please fax or e-mail the TA waiver information by May 7, 2004 to Ms. Betts Smith, Fax: (916) 654-7187 or E-mail: Betts.Smith@dss.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Brady, Policy Unit at (916) 654-1461.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
Thuan Nguyen
On April 16, 2004
THUAN NGUYEN, Chief

Refugee Programs Bureau